

## **REMARKS**

Claims 13, 39 and 40 are amended. Claims 3, 13, 23-37 and 39-43 are pending in the application. Claims 3 and 23-30 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 13, 31-37 and 39-43 are currently under consideration.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 37 and 41-43.

Claims 39 and 40 stand objected as depending from a canceled claim. Each of claims 39 and 40 are amended to properly depend from independent claim 37. Accordingly applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 39 and 40 in the Examiner's next Action.

Claims 39 and 40 are allowable over the art of record for at least the reason that they depend from base claim 37, which is indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

Claims 13, 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohkase (U.S. Patent No. 5536918). Claims 13 and 31-36 stand rejected as being anticipated by Huang (U.S. Patent No. 6468354), and as being anticipated by Fan (U.S. Patent No. 6022809). Anticipation requires each and every element of a claim to be disclosed in a single prior art reference. Claims 13 and 31-36 are allowable over each of Ohkase, Huang and Fan for at least the reason that none of the references discloses each and every element in any of those claims.

As amended, independent claim 13 recites a susceptor comprising a body having a ring with a radially inner portion at least a majority of which is non-solid space. A bearing surface is received on a circular recess comprised by the ring and the ring additionally comprises an outermost portion having a uniform thickness extending from the peripheral edge to the circular recess. The amendment to claim 13 is supported by the specification at, for example, Fig. 14 and the accompanying text. Ohkase discloses a number of discreet holding protrusions (col 11, ll 49-51) comprising a truncated U-shape on an extension arm as illustrated in figures 14 and 15. Ohkase clearly does not disclose the claim 13 recited bearing surface received on a circular recess comprised by a ring, the ring additionally comprising an outermost portion having a uniform thickness extending from the peripheral edge to the circular recess. Claim 13 is therefore not anticipated by Ohkase.

Huang discloses a ring having a shape having numerous thicknesses from the peripheral edge as depicted in Fig. 5. Huang does not disclose the claim 13 recited bearing surface received on a circular recess comprised by a ring, the ring additionally comprising an outermost portion having a uniform thickness extending from the peripheral edge to the circular recess. Claim 13 is therefore not anticipated by Huang.

Fan discloses a shadow ring that DOES NOT CONTACT THE WAFER. The disclosed ring DOES NOT HAVE A SUBSTRATE BEARING SURFACE. See Fig 1. Fan does not teach the claim 13 recited bearing surface received

on a circular recess comprised by a ring, the ring additionally comprising an outermost portion having a uniform thickness extending from the peripheral edge to the circular recess. Claim 13 is therefore not anticipated by Fan.

Dependent claims 31-36 are allowable over each of Ohkase, Huang and Fan for at least the reason that they depend from non-anticipated base claim 13.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 13, 31-37 and 39-43 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of such claims in the examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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